

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER WARRIORS

DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS
JANUARY 2009

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Priest Profile: Fr. Eric Bowman



FR. ERIC BOWMAN
PASTOR – ST. JUDE

Fr. Eric Bowman is the pastor of St. Jude's in Cincinnati. Raised in Springfield, Ohio, he and his family (3 sisters and a brother) attended St. Mary's Parish. After high school, Fr. Eric joined the Army. Stationed in Hawaii, he continued to be very active in the Church and met Fr. Lee Hightower. Fr. Hightower had a major impact on his vocation because he kept telling him he was **going** to be a priest.

Fr. Eric kept telling him NO!

After the Army, Fr. Eric studied special education and played volleyball at Ohio State. During this part of his life, Fr. Eric was not practicing his faith. After graduating and while teaching at Centerville HS, a student brought a gun to school and threatened to kill him. Fr. Eric realized that had he died, he would have gone to hell. He began going back to church – some! He attended Emmanuel Catholic Church, made friends with several people and families who were intent on their faith and who prayed for him.

During this time, he attended a Youth 2000 retreat in order to meet a particular girl but it made a huge impact on him – particularly the challenge

that 'you can't be a 1/2 way Catholic'. The following Easter Season, Father attended a presentation about Divine Mercy and went to confession for the first time in 13 years. A few weeks later, he felt the call to the priesthood though he wanted to marry and have children. He heard the Lord ask, 'Who could love you more than Me?' At this question, though still not sure, he asked the Blessed Mother to give him to her Son.

This explains not only why Fr. Eric has a special devotion to the Blessed Mother, Divine Mercy and St. Faustina but also why he loves confession – both going and giving absolution. He says it is a tremendous gift and responsibility to be the 'vessel of God's Mercy' for others.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Mass for the Renewal of the Priesthood and an Increase of Vocations, January 23. OLHSC at Noon.
- ◆ Northern Call of the King Conference—18 January 2009—location St. Mary's, Piqua, Ohio
- ◆ For details, see the 'Upcoming Events page at cincinnati vocations.org



The Holy Father Speaks

By sacramental consecration the priest is configured to Jesus Christ as head and shepherd of the Church, and he is endowed with a "spiritual power" which is a share in the authority with which Jesus Christ guides the Church through his Spirit.

Jesus Christ is head of the Church his body. He is the "head" in the new and unique sense of being a "servant," - "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and

to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk. 10:45). Jesus' service attains its fullest expression in his death on the cross, that is, in his total gift of self in humility and love.

The spiritual existence of every priest receives its life and inspiration from service to the Church. Their spiritual life should therefore be marked by this fundamental attitude of service to the People of God. The priest is to perform this service freely

and willingly as God desires. In this way the priests, as the ministers, the "elders" of the community, will be in their person the "model" of the flock, which for its part is called to display this same priestly attitude of service toward the world - in order to bring to humanity the fullness of life and complete liberation.

- Pope John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis* 21 (paraphrased)



**ST. MICHAEL
PRAYER WARRIORS**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI VOCATION OFFICE



Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Vocation Office
100 E. 8th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 513-421-3131
Fax: 513-421-6225
vocations@catholiccincinnati.org
www.cincinnati.vocations.org



ENCOURAGING THE
YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI TO LIVE
THEIR FAITH RADICALLY
AS PRIESTS AND
RELIGIOUS OF JESUS
CHRIST FOR THE
SALVATION OF SOULS!

HOLY FATHER'S JAN PRAYER INTENTION:

THAT THE FAMILY MAY
BECOME MORE AND
MORE A PLACE OF
TRAINING IN CHARITY,
PERSONAL GROWTH
AND TRANSMISSION OF
THE FAITH.

St. Michael Prayer Warriors is an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Vocation Office whose members agree to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life for at least one hour per month. Voluntary sacrifice is also encouraged as an offering of self for the gift of vocations. The 'Prayer Warriors' newsletter is published ten times per year, and is distributed electronically to parishes, seminarians, members, and potential candidates for the seminary.

Members also agree to encourage their pastor in his own ongoing conversion, for priests remain the best recruiter of priests. For this, members will pray for their bishops and priests during their hour of adoration.

As the Master instructs us to pray for more laborers for His fields, we willingly agree to this undertaking.

To enroll for the monthly newsletter, send an email to vocations@catholiccincinnati.org or call the Vocation Office at 513-421-3131.

Prayer Intentions, January



**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 6**

This month features the Feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means to make known or to be revealed. We celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men from the east in Bethlehem and revelation of the

Christ child, the King. The Wise Men show that Christ's saving mission is to the whole world and all of mankind and not just to Israel. They brought three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Prayer Intentions:

- Archbishops Pilarczyk
- Archbishop Schnurr
- Pastor and Associate Pastor of your Parish
- Successful start of the new year at the seminary

Outline of Prayer for Jan

- Rosary, meditation on the Luminous Mysteries
- Scripture Reading: The Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12
- Meditate on the many gifts that you have received from Our Lord through his Church and through the hands of His priests, particu-

larly the Sacraments.

A project for Children: Each day move the statues of Wise Men from the Crèche bringing them ever closer to the Christ Child. Tell your children the story and ask them what they have brought to Jesus that day in their prayers and sacrifices.

Sacrifice: Consider going to a daily Mass each week and offer it in thanksgiving for the Eucharist, for Jesus always being with us, until the end of time.

Charity: During the cold weather, consider helping the elderly in your neighborhood with snow and ice removal. For your priest, thank him for a specific area of his ministry that you are impacted by and encourage him to continue serving the Lord and spending time in prayer.

